Venus, f. 4). I have always understood that Dr. Gray's reference of the "pipi" (on the authority of Sinclair and Dieffenbach) to *Mesodesma Chemnitzii*, Deshayes (Wood's Cat. *Mactra*, f. 24), was the correct one.

20 Huntly Gardens, Glasgow,
Nov. 15, 1878.

Note on the Number of Cervical Vertebræ in Dinornis robustus. By Prof. F. W. Hutton, of the Otago University.

Last July a magnificent skeleton of *Dinornis robustus*, found in the Shag valley, was presented to the Otago Museum by A. W. Bell, Esq. This skeleton is complete, with the exception of the cranium, first, second, third, and sixth cervical vertebræ, a few caudal vertebræ, two left ribs, and the metatarsal of the left hallux.

The cervical vertebræ are twenty-one in number (including the four that are missing), and the dorsal are six, or twenty-seven in all. The fifth is without any median hypapophysis. The neural spine becomes single on the nineteenth; the hypapophyses become single on the twentieth. The hypapophyses are furthest apart on the fifteenth. It thus appears that the number of vertebræ in the long-legged species of Moa was the same as in the short-legged, in which I have already shown (Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. 1878, 5th series, vol. i. p. 407) the number of cervical vertebræ to be twenty or twenty-one.

A remarkable peculiarity in this specimen is that the neural spine is single on the fourth and fifth cervicals. There are six ribs on each side, of which the third and fourth alone bear sternal ribs. There is no appearance of any floating sternal rib as in *D. elephantopus*. The proximal phalanx of the hallux is articulated to the ungual phalanx, but not to the metatarsal of the hallux, which is detached.

There is in the Museum collection the leg and foot of a specimen of *D. casuarinus*, in which the metatarsal of the hallux is preceded by another bone. This bone is thin, flat, and triangular in shape, it apex being distal and completely detached from the other metatarsals. Whether it is a continuation of the metatarsal, or whether it represents the calcaneum, I am uncertain.

On the Affinities of the Coleopterous Genus Hades, *Thomson* (Heteromera, Nilionidæ). By Charles O. Waterhouse.

I have just been referring to M. Thomson's monograph of the family Nilionidæ*; and seeing that the new genus *Hades* was founded on a Javan insect received from Dr. Horsfield, I at once looked at the Horsfield collection of Javan Coleoptera in this museum, and was glad to find two specimens which are undoubtedly

* 'Musée Scientifique,' 1860, p. 13.

identical with Thomson's *Hades tenebrosus*. A careful examination of this species convinces me that it is not correctly placed in the Nilionidæ. The form of the head, the distant anterior coxæ (which are described as transverse, but which are totally differently formed from those of *Nilio* and which would be much more accurately described as globular), the structure of the tarsi, &c. appear to me to be quite foreign to the Nilionidæ. There can be no doubt that *Hades* is very closely allied to *Crypsis*, which I described recently (Ent. Month. Mag. 1877, xiv. p. 73) and placed near *Chartopteryx* in the Cyphaleinæ; and I believe I am correct in placing both these insects in that subfamily. The tarsi in *Nilio* are filiform: that is to say, they are not flattened beneath; and they are sparsely pubescent. In *Hades* the tarsi are somewhat flattened beneath and are densely clothed with long soft pubescence; that of the posterior tarsi is divided longitudinally by a fine smooth line, as in *Hemicyclus* and some other Cyphaleinæ.

British Museum,
Oct. 28, 1878.

The Balæna (Macleayius) australiensis *of the Paris Museum, compared with the* Balæna biscayensis *of the University of Naples.* By M. F. Gasco.

It will be remembered that, on the 9th of February, 1877, there was captured in the harbour of Tarento a true whale, which, it would appear, is the first that has been seen in the Mediterranean; and that its complete skeleton is now in the cabinet of Comparative Anatomy of the University of Naples.

On the 3rd November, 1877, I had the honour to present to the Royal Academy of that city a first memoir, which has since been published. A careful examination of the osteological characters soon showed me that the whale of Tarento was identical with that captured in 1862 in Delaware Bay opposite Philadelphia, and upon which Mr. E. Cope published a very brief osteological report in the year 1865.

Both the Tarento whale and that of Philadelphia belong to the species *Balæna biscayensis*, Eschricht, which for several centuries was pursued with avidity, and, I was going to say, exterminated, throughout the temperate region of the North Atlantic, first by the Basques, and then successively by the Saintongeois, the Normans, the Dutch (who called it *Nordkaper*), the Danes, Norwegians, English, and Americans.

Being invited to take part in the seventh Congress of the French Association for the Advancement of Science, I hastened on my arrival in Paris to visit the superb Cetological collection which figures in the galleries of Comparative Anatomy, and especially the complete skeletons of *Balæna mysticetus*, *B. australis*, and *B. antipodum*, the last of which is still the sole individual of its species in European Museums.